



**Senate Committee on Federal & State Affairs
Hearing on Senate Bill 76
Hearing Date- February 1, 2017**

**Written Testimony in Opposition of SB 76 on behalf of the City of Manhattan
By Usha Reddi, Mayor of Manhattan**

Good morning Chair LaTurner, Vice Chair Estes and Honorable Members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee. My name is Usha Reddi and I currently serve as the Mayor of Manhattan.

The City of Manhattan OPPOSES SB 76. The City of Manhattan opposes any legislation that tries to erode Home Rule and local control for municipalities.

- Constitutional Home Rule is the cornerstone of municipal government and should not be preempted by State action. The City of Manhattan believes that the preservation of constitutionally-granted home rule authority is essential to effective and responsible local self-government. Local elected officials are in the best position to make decisions concerning their local communities and are most accountable for those decisions.
- SB 76 could create health and welfare issues for cities. Licenses and regulation in Manhattan are for occupations that involve the public health and welfare. The inability to regulate those industries at the local level could leave portions of the City vulnerable to unsafe practices.
- The ability by the city to regulate certain industries has costs associated with it. Manhattan typically uses those fees to help offset the cost of that regulation. The \$25 limit proposed on licensing in this bill does not cover the necessary costs to properly regulate those industries.
- Changing technologies and work processes bring new industries, and changes to industries, quite often. Changes can mean new work practices that could prove a hazard to the health and welfare of the general public. SB 76 would not allow a city to impose new occupational fees or licenses on those new professions.

For all the above reasons the City of Manhattan opposes SB 76. Thanks for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Usha L. Reddi".

Usha Reddi, Manhattan Mayor